

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4, 14-17 and 25-30 stand rejected, with claims 5-8, 10, 11, 18-21, 23 and 24 objected to in the outstanding Official Action. Applicants have cancelled without prejudice claims 6, 19, 23, 24, 26 and 27, amended claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 14, 20, 25, 28 and 29 and added newly written claims 31 and 32. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 25 and 28-32 are the only claims remaining in the application.

The Examiner's indication of PTO acceptance of the previously filed formal drawings is very much appreciated. Similarly, the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents is very much appreciated.

On page 3, section 5 of the Official Action, claims 5-8, 10, 11, 18-21, 23 and 24 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The subject matter of claim 6 has been added to independent claim 25, thereby placing it in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 25 and therefore claims 2-5, 7, 8 and 10 are all believed patentable in that they depend from claim 25 which now contains the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Claim 14 (and claim 30 dependent thereon) has been amended to recite the existence of a "plurality of flexible beams around the entire periphery of the aperture" (the allowable limitation recited in former claim 6) and therefore it is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 15-18, 20 and 21 are all directly or indirectly dependent from claim 14 and therefore are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28 and 29 also depend from claim 25 and therefore are allowable.

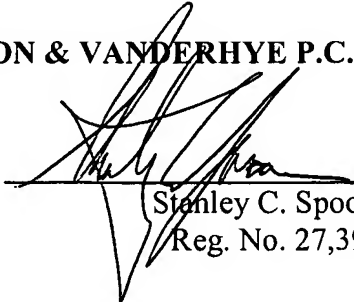
Newly written claim 31 corresponds to previous claims 25, 4 and 10 wherein claim 10 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 31 is believed to be allowable. Newly written claim 32 is an independent claim corresponding to the combination of original claims 25, 4 and 5. Inasmuch as claim 5 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, claims 32 and 11, dependent thereon, are believed to be patentable. All claims not believed to be patentable or to be dependent from patentable claims have been cancelled, thereby obviating any further rejection under 35 USC §102(e).

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 25 and 28-32 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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